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Preparatory Commission for the
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and for the International
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First session
Kingston, Jamaica
15 March to 8 April 1983

LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1983 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR DELEGATION ADDRESSED TO THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED AUTHORITY AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

The delegation of the USSR to the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea hereby transmits to the Commission the following information provided for in paragraph 5 (a) of resolution II.

Intending to apply to the Preparatory Commission, as soon as it begins to function in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution II on behalf of the Soviet enterprise for registration as a pioneer investor, immediately after signing the Convention on 10 December 1982 the Soviet Union, as a certifying State, initiated the efforts provided for in paragraph 5 of resolution II for the most expeditious resolution of possible conflicts with respect to overlapping claims.

However the absence in resolution II of any provisions concerning reciprocal obligations of certifying States regarding the exchange of co-ordinates of areas for the purpose of determining the existence of conflicts has thus far precluded the possibility of initiating negotiations with other certifying States on the resolution of such conflicts.

The delegation of the USSR requests that the Preparatory Commission take into account the above information and notify all the other certifying States of the readiness of the Soviet enterprise to make such application and, to that end, forthwith to begin to exchange co-ordinates of areas with them and begin negotiations on the resolution of possible conflicts concerning the boundaries of such areas.

Should the Preparatory Commission not receive due notification from interested certifying States of their readiness by 1 May 1983 to exchange co-ordinates of areas and initiate negotiations on the resolution of the aforesaid conflicts, the USSR will consider that it has fully complied with the provisions of paragraph 5 (a) of resolution II, that no conflict has arisen and that the Soviet enterprise, in accordance with the application to be submitted by the USSR on its behalf to the Preparatory Commission on 1 May 1983 will be registered as the first pioneer investor.

The Soviet Union also assumes that all certifying States which by 1 May 1983 send such notifications to the Preparatory Commission, their enterprises or companies will, after the resolution of any conflicts that may arise, be registered as pioneer investors, that they will be allocated pioneer areas in pursuance of their applications and that these areas will in future be considered areas 'previously allocated as pioneer areas' as specified in paragraph 5 (a) of resolution II.

The USSR delegation requests that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Preparatory Commission.

(Signed) I. K. KOLOSSOVSKY
Chairman of the USSR delegation to the
first session of the Preparatory
Commission for the International
Sea-Bed Authority and for the
International Tribunal for the Law
of the Sea